

KIRIBATI STATEMENT

Plenary Session 4B

Triangular Cooperation (Government – Scientific & Research Institutions – Private Sector) for Supporting Viable Business Models in 3Rs/waste

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor,

To distinguish delegates, KAM NA MAURI

I wish to thank the organizers for giving Kiribati this opportunity to share our perspective as a small island developing state in this session on Triangular Cooperation

I would like to begin by supporting the statement made by SAMOA yesterday highlighting that as Small Island developing states, we are faced with many developmental and environmental challenges including on waste management. Small islands have unique circumstances and limited capacity, which makes it very hard to cope with these challenges.

Kiribati like other small islands in the Pacific doesn't have the scientific & research institutions however, the Government promotes the engagement of our partners like

JICA and NZAID and also regional and international organizations like SPREP, UNEP and UNITAR to provide the technical and scientific support in developing sound policies on waste management including 3Rs. This healthy collaboration results in the development of the Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy (KIEP) 2012-2015 which integrates national environment priorities including waste management.

The KIEP among other things;

1. recognizes the benefits of engaging the private sector in promoting green business to achieving sustainable development goals;
2. highlights the need for raising public awareness which is a cornerstone to achieving the objectives of the policy
3. attempts to maximize the co-benefits from effective waste management initiatives on other national environment priorities including climate change and biodiversity conservation.

Kiribati also recognizes the invaluable contribution of NGOs like the Foundation of the People of the South Pacific (FSP) which have the capacity to compliment the effort of the government on waste management

Given the small size of the private sector on small islands, it lacks the appetite in investing in waste management business. However, the Government with the support of our development partners has successfully established a container deposit system for

recycling materials in Kiribati for export. The recycling materials focused on aluminum cans, PET bottles and acid lead batteries. The system which is now fully operated by a private sector is supported by a domestic legislation and it is seen as an inspiration to the other countries in the region. The government is actively exploring expanding the scope of the recycling materials to include other wastes including end of life vehicles.

However, despite these notable achievements, Kiribati continues to face critical issues in implementing the sustainable 3R goals for example in dealing with hazardous wastes like e-waste, asbestos and healthcare waste. The government looks forward to continue working with the assistance of our partners through a multilayer partnership and cooperation to achieving the sustainable 3R goals for 2013-2023

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Government of Indonesia for hosting this important forum and also to thank for the organizers for providing the funding assistance to support Kiribati's participation

Thank you all for your kind attention